

Jute packaging for foodgrains and sugar

1628. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government represented in May, 2006 to dilute/repeal the provisions of Compulsory Jute Packaging for foodgrains and sugar beyond 30th June, 2006, to protect plastic woven sack industries and also to check the import of jute bags from neighbouring countries;

(b) whether the 14th Standing Advisory Committee had recommended reservation of 75 per cent for foodgrains and 20 per cent for Sugar under the Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 for the Jute year 2006-07; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not accepting the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The 14th Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) recommended reservation of 75% for foodgrains and 70% for sugar for the jute year 2006-07 (July-June)

(c) The Central Government considered the views of the Government of Gujarat and the recommendations of the SAC. However, in order to protect the interest of the Jute growers, jute workers and the jute industry, the Central Government has taken a decision that during the jute year 2006-07 (July-June), 100% compulsory packaging in jute bags for foodgrains and sugar should be continued, as it was in jute year 2005-06.

Investment in textile industry

1629. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the need-based investment required to be made in the textile industry by 2010 and what is the investment made so far;

(b) whether the investment made so far is lagging behind the need-based requirement, if so, what steps are being taken to promote investment in the industry; and